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NEW YORK POST
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The KGB and the Pope: let the CIA speak up

New York Sen. Al D'Amato's accusation that CIA Director William Casey is involved in a cover-up of the Soviet-Bulgarian connection in the attempted assassination of the Pope is a most serious charge.

It follows the disclosure by The Post on Wednesday that President Reagan summoned Casey to the White House and personally condemned the CIA's failure to investigate Moscow's involvement in the assassination plot.

The State Dept. has been trying to play down the growing evidence pointing to the KGB's involvement in the plot so as not to jeopardize a possible summit meeting with Soviet leader Yuri Andropov.

Andropov was head of the KGB at the time of the assassination attempt.

D'Amato's accusations demand a prompt and public response by Director Casey.

- **Is it true that the CIA brought pressure to prevent a Senate Intelligence Committee staffer from accompanying D'Amato on his trip to Rome to check with Italian authorities on the assassination attempt?**
- **Why did U.S. Ambassador Max Raab send D'Amato a cable from Rome saying "Don't come." Was Raab advised to do this by the CIA or by the State Dept.?**
- **How does Raab justify the tactics used by U.S. Embassy officials in Rome to prevent D'Amato from investigating the affair?**

The significant aspect of D'Amato's charges is that he is close to both Casey and Raab. Presumably he has strong grounds for making such serious charges.

Both the State Dept. and the CIA have a dubious record in cover-ups. The State Dept., it is now being revealed, played a spooky game in helping to protect Nazi Gestapo chieftain Klaus Barbie, who has just been extradited from Bolivia to France for trial as a war criminal; the CIA for four years blocked the U.S. investigation of the Soviet use of lethal "yellow rain" poison gas in Afghanistan, Laos and Cambodia.

D'Amato's accusation demands a full investigation — not by the Senate Intelligence Committee, which meets behind closed doors, but by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

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